

OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN



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March 7, 2022

Testimony Regarding:

SB 296- An Act Eliminating the Requirements to Store the Personal Property of Evicted Tenants

Members of the Committee on Housing,

On behalf of the Town of Voluntown I am writing in SUPPORT of Raised Bill 296- An Act Eliminating the Requirements to Store the Personal Property of Evicted Tenants.

I have gone through several evictions since I have been in office in Voluntown and I can honestly say they are a drain on municipal taxpayer money and resources.

As we are a small town, we do not have extra space to store eviction personal property. We have to rent storage units. Storage unit companies do not recognize municipalities as unit renters, so the rental has to go in my name. This is problematic if the property owner does not pick up their property. A storage company can do the posting and hold an auction, however, since the unit is in my name, it would be posted and auctioned as my stuff. Because of this, my public works crew has to move the items from the storage unit to town property when we do the auction. Stuff that isn't sold at auction they have to bring to the transfer station.

As a small town we also have very limited staff, so it's me and my assistant that do the auction prep and auction. We are the ones taking phone calls from people who are upset about not having their property. Property owners usually don't have money to pay the reimbursement fees. We have just given them their stuff back because in the long run it saves time and money.

There is no planning for evictions. We have to drop what we are working on to accommodate for them. It really doesn't make sense that this burden is put on the town.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tracey Hanson, First Selectman